

Passwater

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**Statement of Alan C. Passwater  
On Behalf of Union Electric Company d//b/a  
AmerenUE  
DOE Hearing on Yucca Mountain Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement  
St. Louis, Missouri  
January 20, 2000**

Good afternoon. My name is Alan Passwater; I am Manager of Corporate Nuclear Services at AmerenUE. AmerenUE is the largest electric utility in Missouri. It supplies electric service to customers in its service territories in Missouri and Illinois serving more than 2,800,000 people in 65 Missouri counties and 500 towns and four Illinois counties, including the greater St. Louis area. AmerenUE owns and operates the Callaway Nuclear Plant located in central Missouri.

- 1... First, [we applaud DOE for their progress towards licensing the Yucca Mountain HLW Facility as evidenced by completing this draft Environmental Impact Statement. Any progress towards this societal benefit is welcome indeed, even if long in coming.

Furthermore, we encourage the federal government to continue progress toward meeting its legal obligation to our customers to begin moving used nuclear fuel

1 cont. to a central disposal facility.] Electricity customers across the country have committed over \$16 billion for this purpose. AmerenUE customers alone have contributed over \$117 million. By DOE's own estimates, action by the federal government has already slipped *at least* 12 years past the 1998 contract date for spent fuel acceptance.

- 2 Second, [AmerenUE agrees with the conclusion of the draft EIS that opening a repository at Yucca Mountain would be far safer and more cost-effective than leaving used fuel and high-level waste at 72 nuclear power plant sites and five DOE sites in 36 states across the country. Building a repository at Yucca Mountain is the environmentally responsible thing to do.] This draft EIS further builds on the record of scientific evidence contained in the 1998 Viability Assessment supporting this conclusion.

AmerenUE, along with other nuclear utilities, needs the repository at Yucca Mountain. Opening the repository represents good public policy and DOE should continue ~~to~~ progress minimizing further delay.

On behalf of AmerenUE, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on DOE's draft EIS for Yucca Mountain.